REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-5 were pending in this application. In this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 4, and has not canceled or added any claims. Accordingly, claims 1-5 will still be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment.

In the Office Action mailed June 19, 2009, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0026880 to Lizotte et al. ("Lizotte"). The Examiner also rejected claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lizotte as applied to claims 1-3, and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0242392 to Betti et al. ("Betti"). Applicant respectfully traverses those rejections.

The present invention, as recited in independent claim 1, is directed to a method for the production of a stamping tool to stamp safety elements in surfaces of carrier material, which comprises creating digital data for the safety element and transferring that digital data to the stamping tool via laser beams. Notably, the digital data includes a three-dimensional digitized template. Thus, the present invention involves creating a three-dimensional digitized template, and *transferring the three-dimensional digitized template* to a stamping tool to stamp safety elements in surfaces of carrier materials.

The use of a three-dimensional digitized template enables the present invention to maintain a pristine template for a safety element, which is created with a computer, which is not subjected to an aging or wear process, and which can be modified at any time. (*See, e.g.*, ¶

[0013] of the present published application.) In addition, the digitized template can process large areas, can facilitate any geometry, can be scaled at any discretion, and can exactly match a safety element with desired requirements in a cost-effective manner. (*See, e.g.*, ¶ [0014].)

In contrast to the transferred digitized template of the present invention, Lizotte merely discloses the use of laser beams to engrave surfaces, and does not teach or suggest the use of laser beams to transfer a three-dimensional digitized template to a stamping tool to stamp safety elements in surfaces of carrier materials. Lizotte discloses a laser system that engraves or stamps identifying indicia directly onto a cartridge case or bullet. (¶ [0040].) The portions of Lizotte cited by the Examiner (¶ [0057] and Figure 4 of Lizotte) disclose that, in machining the marking indicia, "the volume or depth of material removed is controlled by the power levels or number of the laser beam pulses directed at a given area." (¶ [0057] at lines 11-14.) Moreover, this is supposed to happen with the proviso that the "size and shape of the area from which the material is removed is defined or determined by the design characteristics of a corresponding Holographic Imaging Segment 76." (¶ [0057] at lines 8-11.) Consequently, it is the holographic imaging lens 74, which includes a plurality of holographic imaging segments 76, that manipulates the direction of propagation of the laser beam. (¶ [0057] at lines 1-3.) However, the holographic imaging lens 74 may be considered a static means for manipulating incident laser light. On the other hand, the laser beam 60 is only directed by means of steering mirrors 66, which are controlled by a computer 66c to control the direction and location of the beam 60 with respect to the machining surface 68 and holographic imaging lens 74, respectively. Thus, the control of the steering mirrors 66, which although may be performed based on digitized data, *does not include*

transferring of a template for a safety element, since the information required for creation of the safety element is stored within the holographic imaging lens 74 and segments 76, respectively, contrary to the present invention. Indeed, tellingly, the Examiner (at page 2, ¶ 5 of the Office Action) does not even mention the three-dimensional digitized template recited in claim 1, nor where that feature is disclosed in Lizotte.

Lacking the feature of the transferred digitized template, Lizotte fails to provide beneficial aspects of the present invention, which include, for example, that the template is not subject to an aging process, may be modified any time, the fact that even large areas can be processed, and the stability of the digital data.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is patentable over the prior art. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-5 are patentable due at least to their dependence on an allowable base claim and for the additional features recited therein.

Regarding those additional features, Applicant specifically traverses the Examiner's rejection of claim 4, which failed to address all of the features recited in that claim. In particular, the Examiner ignored the feature relating to transferring the digital data to the stamping tool *in a seamless and endless way*. At page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner merely stated that Betti "teaches laser engraving of a cylinder or two cylinders (drums) for embossing web material," without considering the seamless and endless transferring recited in the *method* of claim 4. That seamless and endless transferring is disclosed at ¶ [0016] of the present published application and distinguishes over prior art processes that suffer from conspicuous starting points. Betti's

teachings are limited to the simple concept of laser engraving an external surface of a cylinder. Because Betti focuses on embossing web-like material such as tissue paper, toilet paper, and the like (*see, e.g.*, ¶¶ [0001] and [0004]), and lacks any hint or suggestion of the safety elements of the present invention, Betti fails to disclose any concept of transitions or starting points in the three-dimensional structuring of a stamping tool. Betti therefore fails to teach or suggest the endless and seamless transferring recited in claim 4. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 is patentable over the prior art due at least to that additional reason. Applicant has also amended claim 4 to adjust matters of antecedent basis.

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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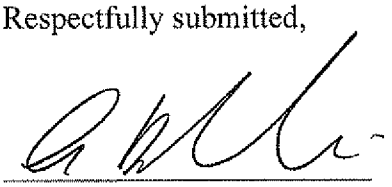
By: 

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